

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00682 281627Z

61

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 SAJ-01 /086 W

----- 018554

R 281100Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4116

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSH LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

US MISSION NATO BRUSSELS 08

USUN NEW YORK 885

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0682

E.O. 11652: NGXA

TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: PRESS CLAIMS US AND NATO WARN AGAINST UK WITHDRAWAL
FROM SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT

BLANTYRE, DAR FOR

EASUM

1. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE ON FOLLOWING IAN HOBBS
ARTICLE DATELINED LONDON IN SOUTH AFRICA'S SUNDAY TIMES OF
OCTOBER 27. ARTICLE, WHICH IMPLIES THERE HAS BEEN OFFICIAL
USG CRITICISM OF OCTOBER 25 SPEECH MADE IN CARIFF BY BRITISH

FOREIGN SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN,
ADDS FUEL TO IMPRESSION WHICH SOME SOUTH AFRICANS SEEM TO WANT
TO PROMOTE AND WHICH SOME BLACK AFRICAN STATES SEEM TO CRITICIZE
US FOR THAT IT IS REALLY THE USG, THROUGH
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00682 281627Z

NATO, WHICH ENCOURAGES BRITISH NAVAL COOPERATION WITH SOUTH

AFRICA AND SECRETLY WISHES TO MAINTAIN SOME FORM OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

WASHINGTON, NATO WARN NALLAGHAN

BY IAN HOBBS

LONDON, SATURDAY

THE BRITISH FORIEGN SECRETARY, MR JAMES CALLAGHAN, HAS BEEN WARNED BY WASHINGTON AND NATO TO STOP PLAYING PARTY POLITICS WITH THE SIMMONSTOWN AGREEMENT.

HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL INTERNATIONAL SOURCES DISCLOSED TONIGHT THAT MR CALLAGHAN HAD BEEN TOLD THAT HE COULD NOT PLACATE THE LEFT-RIGHT SPLIT IN HIS PARTY, AND HIS OWN ANGER AT SOUTH AFRICA'S "CRUDE PROPAGANDISING" OF THE ROYAL NAVY FLEET'S VISIT BY THREATENING TO END THE SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT.

THE INTERNATIONAL WARNINGS ADD TO EARLIER OPINION TODAY THAT MR CALLAGHAN HAS JEOPARDISED HIS JOB BY "BLOWING HIS FUSE" OVER THE ROYAL NAVY'S VISIT TO THE CAPE.

THE CONSERVATIVE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH RUBS IN THE SALT TONIGHT BY SAYING THAT THE FRENCH NAVY WOULD MOVE INTO SIMONSTOWN IMMEDIATELY IF THE BRITISH PULLED OUT - PROBABLY WITH THE BLESSING OF THE MAJORITY OF COMMONWEALTH AND COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES, BLACK OR WHITE.

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY TODAY FIERCELY ATTACKED MR CALLAGHAN FOR THREATENING TO END NAVAL COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA UNDER THE SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT.

IN A SPEECH IN CARDIFF LAST NIGHT, MR CALLAGHAN ACCUSED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OF BUILDING UP THE VISIT AS A GOODWILL GESTURE FROM BRITAIN'S LABOUR ADMINISTRATION WHICH, HE STRESSED, STILL REGARDED THE REPUBLIC'S APARTHEID POLICIES WITH REPUGNANCE.

MR CALLAGHAN'S SPEECH HAS ONLY DEEPENED ANGER WITHIN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CAPE T 00682 281627Z

PARTY AND THE CABINET.

MR CALLAGHAN IS SCHEDULED TO TOUR SEVERAL BLACK AFRICAN STATES SOON. HE HAD HOPED TO PLACATE BLACK NATIONALISTS' ANGER. INSTEAD THERE IS A GATHERING BITTERNESS IN AFRICA WHICH COULD EXPLODE AROUND MR CALLAGHAN.

THE SUNDAY TIMES CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON, GUY BERNARD,

REPORTS THAT THE MAJOR POLICY SPEECH MADE THIS WEEK BY MR VORSTER IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT, AND MR. PIK BOTHA'S STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THURSDAY, ARE BEING CLOSELY STUDIED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN COMMENTED YESTERDAY: "AMBASSADOR BOTH'S PLEDGE THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S GOVERNMENT WILL DO EVERYTHIN IN ITS POWER TO MOVE AWAY FROM DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE AND COLOUR IS A WELCOME STEP IN WHAT WE REGARD AS THE RIGHT DIRECTION". END TEXT

3. WE NOTE THAT LAST PARAGRAPH QUOTES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AS COMMENTING ON SOUTH AFRICA PERMREP BOTHA'S OCTOBER 24 UNSC SPEECH IN SLIGHTLY MORE APPROVING LANGUAGE THAN THAT CITED IN STATE 235770.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAPET00682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740308-0703
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741012/aaaaajpz.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS CLAIMS US AND NATO WARN AGAINST UK WITHDRAWAL FROM SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, SF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005